

OPASTCO

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**ORGANIZATION
FOR THE PROMOTION
AND ADVANCEMENT
OF SMALL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMPANIES**

September 26, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

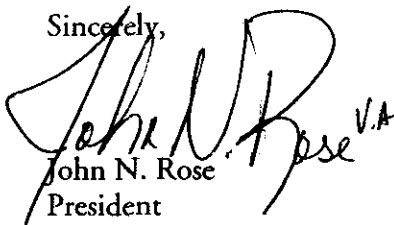
**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board
of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please find enclosed for filing a letter nominating Edwin H. Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors as a representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (other than Bell Operating Companies) with annual operating revenues of \$40 million or less. OPASTCO is filing this letter with you in accordance with Section 54.703(c) of the Commission's Rules, In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


John N. Rose
President

21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
202.659.5990
Fax 202.659.4619
<http://www.opastco.org>



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**ORGANIZATION
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMPANIES**

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board
of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Chairman Powell:

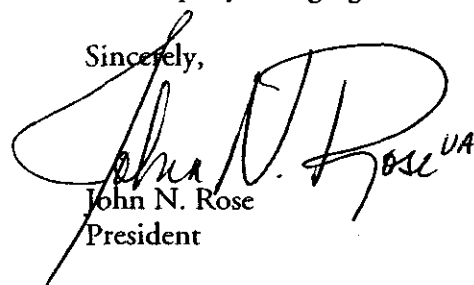
The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) nominates Edwin H. Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors as a representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (other than Bell Operating Companies) with annual operating revenues of \$40 million or less. Please find attached Mr. Eichler's curriculum vitae.

Ed Eichler was OPASTCO's 1997 Chairman and is still the President of Pigeon Telephone Company in Pigeon, Michigan. He has significant access and universal service experience spanning 25 years, including his role as founding chair of the Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, as well as his years of service to the standing Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors.

OPASTCO is a national trade association of more than 510 independently owned and operated telephone companies serving rural areas of the United States. Its members, who include both commercial companies and cooperatives, together served over two million customers.

OPASTCO strongly recommends that you name Ed Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors. His record of service to the telecommunications industry clearly demonstrates that he has the attributes that will serve the USAC Board well as we further journey into these rapidly changing times.

Sincerely,



John N. Rose
President

JNR/va

21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
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Fax 202.659.4619
<http://www.opastco.org>

Edwin H. Eichler
7585 W. Pigeon Road, Pigeon, MI 48755
(989) 453-4321

Curriculum Vitae

Telecommunications Company Operations Experience

President and Chief Executive Officer 1988 to present
Pigeon Telephone Company

Pigeon Telephone Company (PTC) is an independent telephone company in rural Michigan, serving 3,940 access lines. Since joining PTC in 1972, responsibilities have included outside plant, plant manager, director of operations, vice president and president.

President and Chief Executive Officer 1988 to present
Vice President 1982 to 1988

Agri-Valley Communications Inc. (AVCI), founded in 1982 as a deregulated subsidiary, AVCI reorganized in 1994 as the parent company for Pigeon Telephone Company, Thumb Cellular Limited Partnership, WSTD-FM a radio station, and other business interests.

President and Chief Executive Officer 1988 to present
Agri-Valley Services, founded in 1996, provides Internet services through AVCI.NET, and provides other communications services.

Access and Universal Service Experience

Director, Representing ILECs with Operating Revenues of \$40 Million or Less
Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) 1997 to present
Responsibilities: Developing policies in cooperation with other board members to ensure the ongoing financial stability of USAC as the administrator of universal service funds for all eligible carriers.

Chairman
OPASTCO 1997
Responsibilities: leading with the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies' (OPASTCO) Executive Committee to direct the regulatory positions of the association on behalf of small, independent, and primarily rural telephone companies.

Chairman 1986 to 1996
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association (MECA)
Responsibilities: steering access regulations for Michigan; negotiating policy with small and large companies; overseeing the separation of MECA, from the Telephone Association of Michigan, into two distinct organizations.

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Access and Universal Service Experience, cont'd

Working with the United States Telephone Association, with the assistance of a cost consultant, participating in the study to conform Parts 36 and 39 of the Uniform System of Accounts.

Twenty years experience participating in all aspects of the total costing process.

Testified in front of the Federal Communications Commission and Michigan Legislature on various access and universal service issues, and publicly addressed the membership of the Minnesota Telephone Association, Telephone Association of Michigan, OPASTCO, and other various groups.

Chairman 1997
Board Member 1989 to 1995, present
Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies
 Committee participation has included: Executive, Education, By-laws, Nominating, Industry Relations and Public Relations.

Michigan Independent Networks
Participated on founding board of organization to help Michigan small, rural telephone companies leverage their assets.

Telephone Association of Michigan (formerly MITA)
Committee participation has included: Settlements and Special Services, chair of steering committee requested by Michigan Public Service Commission that later became the **Michigan Exchange Carriers Association**, Executive, 50th Anniversary Convention, Personnel & Policy, and Education Committees.

Committee participation has included: study group that conformed separations and access rules in Parts 36 and 39 of the Uniform System of Accounts, State Government Relations and the Public Relations Committees.

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Edwin Eichler, page 3

Telecommunications and Other Organizations

Chief Executive Officer	1996 to present
Chairman	1991 to present
Board Member	1988 to present
Bay Port State Bank	
Located in Bay Port, Michigan	

Board Member	1990 to present
Cellular North Michigan Network General Partnership	
Helped form organization, located in Traverse City, Michigan	

Governor	1983 to 1984
Member	1974 to present
Rotary District 6310 (33 clubs)	
Rotary Club	
Pigeon, Michigan	

President	1972
Board Member	1969 to 1972
St. Charles Education Association	
Located in St. Charles, Illinois, with 350 teacher members	

Other Experience

Public School Teacher, 9th Grade	1969 to 1972
St. Charles, Illinois	

Education

Bachelor of Arts Degree, Speech	1969
North Central College	
Napier, Illinois	

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